



TRANSCRIPT REPORT

Date: May 18, 2005

Agenda item No: 5

Council Action Date: May 20, 2005

To: CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD
From: SANDRA MUÑOZ, EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Subject: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 22, 2005.

George G. Sinopoli
Chairman



California Veterans Board Board Minutes #676

Chairman George Sinopoli



Board Members:

Leo Burke, Vice Chairman
Dr. Vernon Chong

Col James C. Crump, Jr. USAF (Ret)
William D. Jackson

APRIL 22, 2005

The California Veterans Board met in regular session in the City of Ventura in the City Hall, 501 Poli Street, Ventura, at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Board Members George G. Sinopoli Chairman, Leo P. Burke Vice-Chairman, James C. Crump Jr. Member, and William D. Jackson.

Absent: Vernon Chong

Chairman Sinopoli presided.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (CDVA)

Present: Daniel Murray, Administrator of Veterans Home-Chula Vista

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

WELCOMING REMARKS

The Honorable Mayor Brian Brennan
Introductions of California Veterans Board Members
Audience Introductions
Daniel Murray CDVA Administrator Veterans Home-Chula Vista

CLOSED SESSION REPORT

There was no Closed Session.

CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD CONSENT ITEMS

1. MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the minutes of the regular meetings of February 25, 2005.

No Debate discussion

Board member Burke moved to approve February 25, 2005 Minutes. Board member Crump seconded. The vote was as follows.

AYES: Board member Crump, Burke, Jackson, Sinopoli

NOES: None

ABSENT: Board member Chong

Chairman declared the motion carried.

2. REPORT BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (CDVA)

Chairman Sinopoli announced that no one from Headquarters is present to give report.

Dan Murray Administrator Veterans Home-Chula Vista reported on significant matters of the Chula Vista and Barstow Veterans Home. Dan Murray also reported on the status of the Five Veterans Homes.

Board Member Crump asked Dan Murray if the Veterans Home Chula Vista budget has increased?

Dan Murray answered yes. Budget for Barstow based on census.

Board Member Jackson spoke on budget for Barstow.

Board Member Crump asked regarding the cuts of the approximant 970 thousand dollars?

Terry Tracy spoke regarding the West LA Veterans Home site.

Dan Murray spoke on statistics regarding the West LA area.

Terry Tracy spoke regarding a meeting he attended conducted by Dr. Johnson of CDVA and commented on the level of care issue regarding the West LA Veterans Home.

Dan Murray explained the levels care.

Terry Tracy requested Dr. Johnson to clarify.

Board Member Crump responded by requesting clarification in writing by Dr. Johnson.

Bruce Thiesen spoke on housing for employees on state property.

George Sinopoli spoke regarding land use letter dated April 7th by Secretary Thomas Johnson to George Sinopoli.

Dan Murray read the Land Use April 7, 2005 letter verbatim.

Audience member asked Dan Murray questions regarding the alcohol drug rehab program at Yountville. The program was closed.

Dr. David Salopek spoke on the drug rehab center (ATP) and Mental Services that were shut down this year at Veterans Home-Yountville.

Dr. Feldman spoke on health care needs.

Dr. David Salopek spoke on the responsible of the veterans to take care of veterans.

3. REPORT OF BOARD MEMBERS ACTIVITIES FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

Board member Crump, Jackson, and Sinopoli reported on activities. Board member Burke elected to discuss later in the meeting.

Discussion was held.

4. REPORT ON BCP FOR SPECIAL COUNSEL

Board Member Crump reported on the Budget Change Concept Process (BCP).

5. REPORTS BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Chairman Sinopoli announced that no one from Headquarters is present to give report.

Discussion was held.

i} Review of Proposed Rulemaking on eligibility for burial in a State Veteran's Cemetery.
Discussion by Board Member Sinopoli

ii} Review of Land Use at Veterans Homes.
Discussion by Board Member Sinopoli

iii} Review proposed federal Budget cuts.

Discussion by Board Member Sinopoli, Crump

iv} Review of hiring veteran's preference by CDVA.

Discussion by Board Member Crump

Discussion by Dan Murray, Administrator

6. OLD BUSINESS CONSENT ITEMS

i} Should the general fund costs of handling and processing the estates of deceased members of the Veterans Homes be recovered from the estates which by law are required to be paid into the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Funds (formerly "Post Funds" MWRP) at the Veterans Homes?

Discussion by Board Member Jackson

RECOMMENDATION

Vote Yes on the question stated above.

Debate was held

Discussion by Board Member Crump, requested Dr. Salopek to explain.

Discussion by Dr. Salopek Allied Council Chairman Yountville. Restated question, "Who is going to pay for the cost of collecting for the deceased members estates?" Currently the State pays for the collection of cost.

Discussion by Dan Murray. There is no limit stated on the cost for processing deceased members estates.

Discussion by Dr. Salopek regarding a discussion with Secretary Johnson of a 10% cap.

RECOMMENDATION

Postpone Discussion until further study.

No debate held

Board member Sinopoli moved to postpone discussion until further study, board member Crump seconded. The vote was as follows.

AYES: Board member Crump, Burke, Sinopoli

NOES: Board member Jackson

ABSENT: Board member Chong

Chairman declared the motion carried.

ii} Should the fees and charges for members of the Veterans Homes be increased by indexing them to the Social Security Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA)?

Discussion by Board Member Jackson.

RECOMMENDATION

Vote NO to increasing fees and charges by indexing them to the COLA

Board Member Jackson moved to vote NO to increase fees and charges by indexing them to the COLA. Seconded by Board Member Burke. The vote was as follows.

Debate was held

AYES: Board member Burke, Jackson and Sinopoli.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Board member Crump

ABSENT: Board member Chong

Chairman Sinopoli declared the motion carried.

7. NEW BUSINESS CONSENT ITEMS

i} Review and approve Policy Book, revision of some existing policies, and deletion of others.

Report read by board member Burke on behalf of board member Chong.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Policy Book Changes

Debate was held

Board Member Burke moved to approve Policy Book changes as read. Seconded by Board member Crump. Board member Crump moved that if Policy A12 is not adequate to cover Special Counsel a change to the Policy will be required. A Question Called by Board member Burke. The Vote was as follows:

AYES: Board member Crump, Burke, Jackson and Sinopoli.

NOES: None

ABSENT: Board member Chong

Chairman Sinopoli declared the motion carried.

ii} Review Schedule of Bi-Monthly Meeting

George Sinopoli issued proposed schedule of meeting 2005, will be posted on the CDVA Website.

8. REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS ON SELECT COMMITTEES

Board member Crump discussed a proposed new Select Committee on Veteran Organizations Service Representatives. Board member Crump recommended a letter to be mailed from Chairman Sinopoli to Service Organizations requesting for a representative for Select Committee.

Board member Burke requested Executive Officer to read Legislative Report.

RECOMMENDATION

Accept legislative select committee report/recommendations as read.

Discussion by James Crump.

Board member Jackson moved to approve and accept legislative report. Board member Burke seconded. The vote was as follows:

AYES: Board member Burke, Jackson, Sinopoli

NOES: Board member Crump

ABSENT: Board member Chong

Chairman Sinopoli declared the motion carried.

9. REPORT OF BOARD MEMBERS ACTIVITIES FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

Board member Burke discussed his activities for the February and March 2005.

10. REPORTS ON CDVA DIVISIONS

Report by Dan Murray Administrator Veterans Home-Chula Vista

Discussion by Bruce Thiesen.

11. HEARING ON APPEALS

RECOMMENDATION

Accept Byron Holtzclaw request to reschedule appeal.

Board member Crump moved to accept Byron Holtzclaw request to reschedule appeal. Seconded by Board member Burke. The vote was as follows.

AYES: Board member Crump, Burke, Jackson and Sinopoli

NOES: None

ABSENT: Board member Chong

Chairman Sinopoli declared the motion carried.

Board member Crump moved to accept Westley Johnson request to wait until appellant formally notifies the board. Seconded by Board member Burke. The vote was as follows.

AYES: Board member Crump, Burke, Jackson and Sinopoli

NOES: None

ABSENT: Board member Chong

Chairman Sinopoli declared the motion carried.

Board member Crump moved to dismiss Johnny Chavez appeal. Board member Burke seconded. The vote was as follows.

AYES: Board member Crump, Burke, Jackson and Sinopoli

NOES: None

ABSENT: Board member Chong

Chairman Sinopoli declared the motion carried.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT – THREE MINUTE LIMIT Board Policy Prohibits Response from Board Members

Tom Craft
Terry Tracy
R.T. Lee
Roy Nichols
Tom Montague
David Salopek

RECOMMENDATION

Board member Burke recommended the Board to send a letter to Secretary Thomas Johnson requesting status on the Lincoln Theatre flag, National anthem and lease issues.

Board member Burke moved to send a letter to Secretary Thomas Johnson requesting status on the Lincoln Theatre issues. Board member Jackson seconded. The vote was as follows.

AYES: Board member Crump, Burke, Jackson and Sinopoli

NOES: None

ABSENT: Board member Chong

Chairman Sinopoli declared the motion carried.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT – THREE MINUTE LIMIT Board Policy Prohibits Response from Board Members

Melody Baker
Bruce Thiesen
Alex Smith
John Roberts
Edward Feldman

ADJOURNED at 12:10 p.m.

FUTURE MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS:

All meetings take place on Friday unless notified.

Next board meeting May 20 Barstow

Yearly schedule is posted on web site: www.cdva.ca.gov/board

CLOSED SESSION (if necessary or required)

The general reason or reasons for a closed session, and the specific statutory authority therefore, are (1) to consider the appointment or employment of a public employee under the authority of Section 11126(a) of the Government Code; and (2) to confer with or receive advice from the Board's legal counsel regarding pending litigation under the authority of Section 11126(E)(2)(A), (2)(B), and (3) of the Government Code.

- These minutes are posted to the California Department of Veterans Affairs on-line website at www.cdva.ca.gov/board